

Dear Neighbor,

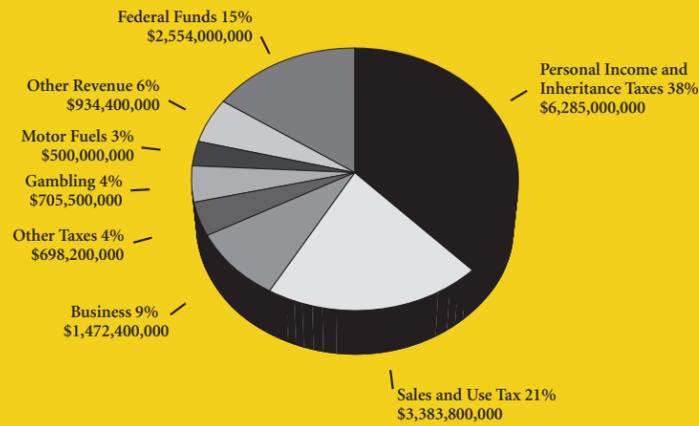
I am often asked questions on where the state derives its revenue and how it is spent. The chart below provides an overview of revenue and spending.

I hope you find it informative in this regard.

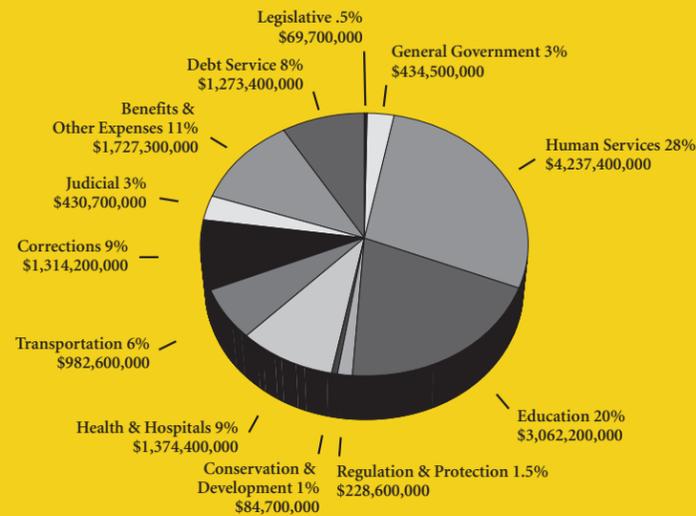
BUDGET ENDING JUNE 30, 2006

The 2006 general fund and the special transportation fund spends \$15.2 billion.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?



WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?



*In addition to an expected surplus, the difference between expenditures and revenues is due to tax refunds.

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State Representative
JANICE GIEGLER
Proudly Serving the 138th District
Danbury ★ New Fairfield

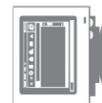


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2006 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



State Representative

JANICE GIEGLER

Proudly Serving the 138th District

Danbury ★ New Fairfield



Rep. Giegler discusses pending legislation on the floor of the House with Rep. Alberts, of Woodstock, during the 2006 Legislative Session.

SENIORS

Homecare Oversight

Public Act 06-187 will help protect the interests of senior citizens by requiring companies providing homemaker or companion services to obtain a certificate of registration from the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP). It also gives DCP authority to suspend, revoke, or refuse to issue the registration or take other disciplinary measures in response to violations of the bill.

Under the bill, beginning October 2006, these agencies must require new employees to undergo comprehensive background checks and take specified factors into account when making employment decisions based on the checks. Homecare agencies must also provide their clients with written individualized contracts or service plans that identify the services' scope, type, frequency, and duration. In addition, agencies that enter into a contract with a client's family must detail exact compensation.

Property Tax Freeze

Public Act 06-176 allows municipalities to freeze the property taxes on homes owned by certain elderly people. To be eligible, the homeowner or his spouse must be age 70 or older and have lived in the state at least one year. The freeze continues for a surviving spouse who is at least age 62 when the homeowner dies. Homeowners must meet the same income limits that apply to the existing state-reimbursed "circuit breaker" program, which currently gives qualified homeowners age 65 or over a tax credit against the property taxes on their homes.

VETERANS

Tax Break

Public Act 06-153 excludes veterans' disability payments as eligible income used to determine property tax exemptions for Veterans. This initiative represents a way to recognize the many sacrifices made by Veterans.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Prohibiting Underage Drinking On Private Property

Public Act 06-112 is designed to address a loophole in state law that has allowed underage drinking on private property. Under current law, the penalty for illegal possession in public places is a fine of \$200 to \$500. The bill also makes it illegal for a minor to possess alcohol anywhere, rather than only in public places and makes a first offense an infraction. HB 5211 makes subsequent offenses subject to up to one year in prison, a fine of up to \$500, or both.

CONSUMER PROTECTION

Prepaid Funeral Contracts

I introduced Public Act 06-87, which will establish greater clarity in prepaid funeral contracts. The legislation requires pre-need funeral service contracts to be written and include certain provisions to help consumers. There have been problems involving the misappropriation of pre-need funds--in some instances due to bad business practice but some due to fraud. This bill provides protection for both consumers and funeral directors.

Protection Against Identity Theft

I cosponsored Public Act 06-60, which outlaws small scanners and reencoders that can be used to create fake credit cards. This is an ever increasing problem throughout the country and the bill is a positive step towards protecting our residents. Penalties for violating the new law include up to 10 years imprisonment, fines of up to \$10,000 or both.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Reducing Hospital Infections

Public Act 06-142 will help reduce infections acquired in hospitals, which can lead to very serious medical problems. The legislation creates a committee to develop a mandatory reporting system for all healthcare associated infections. In addition, the report must be posted on the Department of Public Health website and be available to the public. Because this legislation establishes a detailed reporting system, it marks an excellent step toward reducing such infections.

Living Wills

Public Act 06-195 updates state law regarding the use of living wills. The legislation addresses issues that allow for more effective utilization of living wills, including authorizing a person's chosen health care representative to make health care decisions if they are incapable of personally expressing those wishes.



TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVES

\$2.3 Billion Package

Public Act 06-136 will provide for improvements to highways and mass transit in all corners of the state, allocating \$2.3 billion over a 10-year period. Projects to be funded in Western Connecticut include the completion of the engineering and design phase of widening Interstate 84 between Waterbury and Danbury. It also includes funding to upgrade rail cars on the Danbury rail line.



Rep. Giegler (left), Sen. David Cappiello and fellow Rep. Mary Ann Carson (right) meet with three New Fairfield High School students and the family of late Marine Gunnery Sergeant Phillip Jordan, of Enfield. Sgt. Jordan was the first Connecticut resident killed in Operation Iraqi Freedom. The students presented a commemorative flag and donations to be used toward the education of Jordan's son, Tyler, which they amassed during a town-wide collection in New Fairfield.



Rep. Giegler meets with Holly Romano, of Monroe, in the House Chamber. Romano served as a Legislative Intern for the House Republican Office at the Capitol this spring.

Other projects that will be funded include: the restoration of commuter rail service between New Haven and Springfield, MA; the renovation of rail cars for use on Shore Line East, the New Haven-Springfield Line and Branch Lines and dredging of the state's commercial ports. It is important to note the bill does not include previous proposals for increasing the state gasoline tax or bringing back highway tolls. The package will be funded through revenue bonds.

SPENDING AND TAXES

2006-2007 State Budget

There were several good points in the 2006-2007 budget package that was approved this year. These include:

- Providing a welcome tax break. The maximum property tax credit on the state income tax, which was scheduled to rise from \$350 to \$400, will instead be raised to \$500.
- Allocating \$190 million to the Rainy Day Fund. This fund, established in the wake of enacting the state income tax in the early 1990s, played a vital role in cushioning the impact on taxpayers when the state hit difficult economic times a decade later.
- To help promote business development, it repeals the 15 percent corporation tax credit surcharge in 2007 and offers tax credits for companies that hire displaced workers and create at least 50 new, full-time jobs.

Based on a statutory formula:

Danbury will receive \$24,688,572, an increase of \$1,120,356. It will also receive a one-time revenue sharing grant of \$454,006.

New Fairfield will receive \$4,386,445, in state aid, an increase of \$356,635. It will also receive a one-time revenue sharing grant of \$28,222.

Saving For Education

The state budget package also creates a deduction on the state income tax for contributions to the Connecticut Higher Education Trust (CHET--the state-sponsored college savings plan). It will allow taxpayers to carry forward any unused deductions for the five following years as long as each deduction does not exceed the annual maximums, which are \$5,000 for single filers and \$10,000 for joint filers.